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(19)

(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN ROLLER BLIND ASSEMBLIES

(71) We, BEAUTY BLINDS LIMITED, a British Company of 21, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to roller blind assemblies.

Roller blind assemblies normally include a wooden roller to which a fabric blind is attached by means which penetrate the blind and roller, such as staples or nails. Such means of attachment necessarily damage the blind. It has, therefore, previously been proposed to form an elongate slot of rectangular cross-section in the roller into which one end of the blind is inserted and this edge is locked in the slot by means of a member of square cross-section around which the marginal portion of the blind is wrapped. To prevent the member becoming detached from the blind, the edge of the blind has been formed into a loop. The member is located within the loop. This latter form of attachment has the disadvantage that the edge of the blind must be sewn to form the loop and it is difficult to locate the member within the loop so formed. Still further, the sewing which forms the loop may become undone and therefore there is the distinct possibility that the blind may become detached from the roller.

It is the main object of this invention to provide a roller blind assembly in which it is a simple matter for the blind to be attached to the roller and whereby the blind is securely fastened and in no way damaged by the attachment.

According to the present invention there is provided a roller blind assembly, including a roller having a longitudinally extending recess with a longitudinally extending slot forming the mouth of the recess, a blind extending through said slot and having one edge within said recess, a stiffening means secured to the marginal portion of said one edge, said stiffening means being in the form of an elongate strip of metal or plastics adhesively secured to said marginal portion of said one edge and located in the recess, the width of the strip being such that the strip cannot rotate about the longitudinal axis of the recess so as to prevent inadvertent withdrawal of said one edge of the blind through the slot.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawing which shows one embodiment of the invention, by way of example only, and in which:—

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a roller blind assembly constructed in accordance with the invention;

FIGURE 2 is an end view of the roller of the blind assembly of Figure 1;

FIGURE 3 is an enlarged view of part of the roller of Figure 2 showing how the blind is attached to the roller;

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of one edge portion of a blind showing how this is prepared for attachment to the roller;

FIGURE 5 is an end view of the bottom board of the roller blind assembly of Figure 1; and

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of the lower edge portion of the blind of Figure 1 showing how this is prepared for it to be received in the bottom board.

A roller blind assembly in accordance with the invention includes a roller 1 which may be of metal or plastics provided with conventional mounting, winding and spring-return gear generally indicated at 2 which do not form part of the present invention and therefore require no further description.

The roller 1 is provided with a longi-

tudinally extending recess 3 with a longitudinally extending slot 4, this recess 3 and slot 4 being for the reception and retention of one edge portion of a blind 5. As will be seen from Figure 4, the upper edge portion of the blind 5 is provided with a stiffening means in the form of an elongate strip 6 of metal or plastics. This strip 6 is adhesively secured to the marginal portion of the upper edge 7 of the blind 5.

The stiffening means 6 is located within the recess 3, as indicated in Figure 3, and this is achieved by first folding the marginal portion of the blind 5 against the stiffening means 6 and then inserting the folded marginal portion together with the stiffening means 6 from one end of the recess 3 so that this lies within the recess 3 with the blind 5 extending through the slot 4.

As will be seen quite clearly from Figure 3, the width of the strip 6 is such that the strip cannot rotate about the longitudinal axis of the recess 3 and thereby inadvertent withdrawal of the edge of the blind through the slot 4 is prevented.

Conveniently, the strip 6 is formed of aluminium or tin foil approximately 3/16th of an inch wide and 0.012 inches thick with an adhesive on one face. Such a strip may be stored in rolls and an appropriate length of strip may then be cut from the roll and secured by the adhesive to the blind near the edge thereof. One edge of the strip may be at the edge of the blind as can be seen in Figure 4. The marginal portion of the blind may be folded any number of convenient times against the strip 6 prior to it being located within the recess 3 or wrapped around the strip.

Referring now to Figures 5 and 6, it will be seen from Figure 6 that the lower end of the blind 5 is provided with a strip 8. This strip 8 is adhesively secured to the blind 5 and this strip 8 may be of larger dimensions than the strip 6. A bottom board 9 is provided with a longitudinally extending recess 10 and a slot 11 communicating therewith. The strip 8 is secured to the marginal portion of the lower edge of the blind 5 and the lower edge 12 of the blind 5 is located within the recess 10 with the blind 5 extending through the slot 11. The strip 8 and lower edge 12 of the blind will be inserted longitudinally into the bottom board 9.

Preferably, the strips 6 and 8 extend the entire length of the blind 5 and therefore prevent any fraying of the upper and lower edges of the blind particularly if the blind is of a woven material.

The roller blind assembly of the present invention is very easily put together since it is a very simple and quick operation to apply the strips 6 and 8 to the edges of the blind 5. Also, it is a simple job to remove the blind 5 and replace it with a further blind.

The strips 6 and 8 are sufficiently rigid not to collapse under load if a pull is exerted on the blind during use, for example, by the pull-cord 13 fixed to the bottom board 9.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A roller blind assembly, including a roller having a longitudinally extending recess with a longitudinally extending slot forming the mouth of the recess, a blind extending through said slot and having one edge within said recess, a stiffening means secured to the marginal portion of said one edge, said stiffening means being in the form of an elongate strip of metal or plastics adhesively secured to said marginal portion of said one edge and located in the recess, the width of the strip being such that the strip cannot rotate about the longitudinal axis of the recess so as to prevent inadvertent withdrawal of said one edge of the blind through the slot.

2. A roller blind assembly as claimed in Claim 1, in which the marginal portion of the blind is folded against the strip.

3. A roller blind assembly as claimed in either Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the strip extends the entire length of the said marginal portion of the one edge of the blind.

4. A roller blind assembly as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the strip is of aluminium or tin foil with an adhesive on one face.

5. A roller blind assembly substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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2 SHEETS *This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale*
Sheet 1

FIG.1

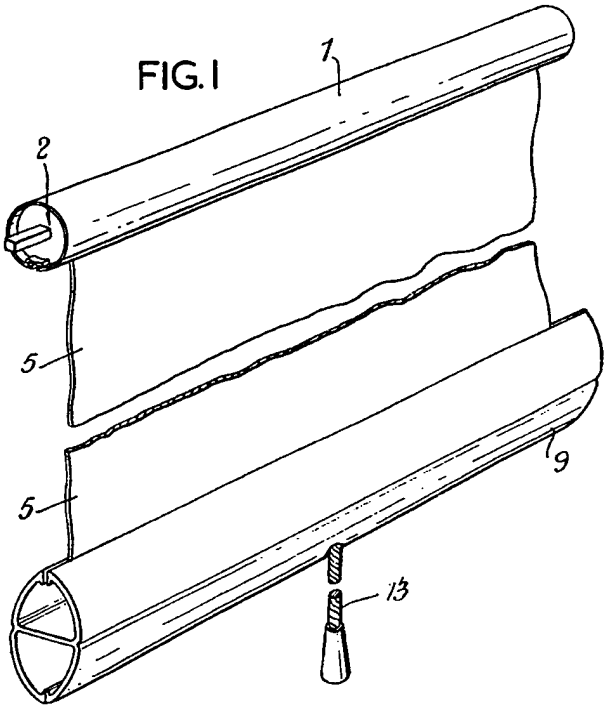


FIG.2

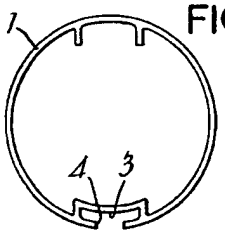
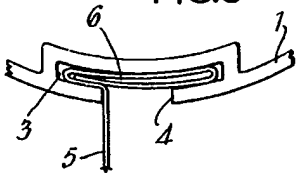


FIG.3



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Sheet 2

FIG.4

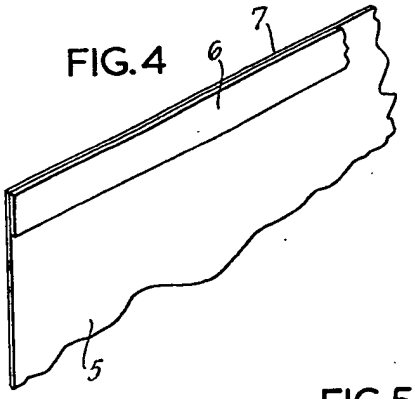

FIG.5

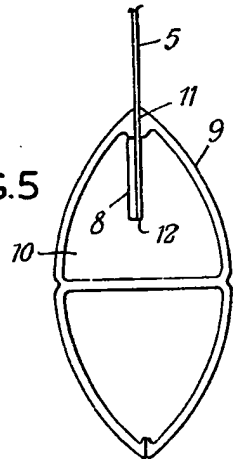

FIG.6